

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 5, and 18. Please add new Claim 28. No new matter is added.
This Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Original) A method for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:
causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and
based on the metrics, steering the directional antenna to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP).
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes causing the MAC layer to determine the metrics as a function of received energy by the directional antenna in the beam angles.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes causing the MAC layer to transmit a signal to at least one access point and to measure a response from said at least one access point.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes receiving a table of previously calculated metrics from the MAC layer.
5. (Currently amended) A method for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:
causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with
respective beam angles of the directional antenna;

based on the metrics, steering the directional antenna to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP). ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein~~ and causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes causing the MAC layer to calculate the metrics as a function of a beacon signal.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including associating with a distribution system coupled to the access point.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics occurs before or after associating with the distribution system.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including coordinating the beam angle of the directional antenna with causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the beam angle includes an omni-directional beam angle.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the metrics correspond to beam angles relative to one access point.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the metrics correspond to beam angles relative to multiple access points.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the metrics includes at least one of the following: Signal-To-Noise Ratio (SNR), Energy-per-bit per total Noise (Eb/No), Received Signal Strength Indication (RSSI), and Carrier-to-Interference Ratio (C/I).
13. (Original) The method according to claim 1 used in an 802.11, 802.11a, 802.11b, or 802.11g network.

14. (Original) An apparatus for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:

a Station Management Entity (SME) that causes a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and

an antenna control unit coupled to the directional antenna that receives input based on the metrics from the SME and, in turn, causes the directional antenna to steer an antenna beam to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP).

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME causes the MAC layer to determine the metrics as a function of received energy by the directional antenna in the beam angles.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME causes the MAC layer to transmit a signal to the access point and to measure a response from the access point.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 further including a table of previously calculated metrics, wherein the table is provided from the MAC layer to the SME.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:

a Station Management Entity (SME) that causes a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and

an antenna control unit coupled to the directional antenna that receives input based on the metrics from the SME and, in turn, causes the directional antenna to steer an antenna beam to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP). ~~The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME causes~~ causing the MAC layer to calculate the metrics as a function of a beacon signal.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME associates with a distribution system coupled to the AP.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the SME causes the MAC layer to provide the metrics before or after associating with the distribution system.
21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME coordinates the beam angle of the directional antenna with causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics.
22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the SME causes the directional antenna to operate in an omni-directional beam angle mode.
23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the metrics correspond to beam angles relative to one access point.
24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the metrics correspond to beam angles relative to multiple access points.
25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the metrics include at least one of the following: Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), Energy-per-Bit per Total Noise (Eb/No), Received Signal Strength Indication (RSSI), and Carrier-to-Interference Ratio (C/I).
26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 used in an 802.11, 802.11a, 802.11b, or 802.11g network.
27. (Original) An apparatus for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:
 - means for causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and
 - means for steering the directional antenna based on the metrics to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP).

28. (New) A method for operating a directional antenna in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:

causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna, the Medium Access Control layer accessing metrics from a look up table stored in memory or the Medium Access Control layer calculating metrics, the Medium Access Control layer communicating the metrics to the directional antenna in packets through the Wireless Local Area Network, the communication being configured to cycle through a plurality of antenna positions and provide metrics associated with each of the plurality of antenna position to determine a predetermined antenna position; and

based on the metrics, steering the directional antenna to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP).